



June, 2006

Buncombe County News

Asheville USDA Service Center

Buncombe County FSA
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Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Don Morgan
Judy H. Carson
Mary White

**County Executive
Director**
Christopher R. West

2006 County FSA Committee Election

The county committee election in Buncombe County this year will be for a representative for Local Administrative Area 1 (Hominy, Leicester, and Sandy Mush). The person elected will serve a three year term, beginning January 1, 2007. The petitions are being mailed separately. Any eligible voter may nominate an eligible person's name to be placed on the election ballot. Nominees must agree to serve if elected. Nomination petitions (FSA-669A) must be filed in the FSA office, either in person or by mail, no later than August 1, 2006. The county FSA committee will review all nominations to determine eligibility of the nominee, and assure that the petitions were filed according to regulations. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters no later than November 4, 2006. Those having questions concerning the election and eligibility requirements should contact the FSA office.

Crop Acreage Reports

FSA cannot stress too much the importance of filing accurate crop acreage reports each year. Many producers believe that acreage reports are of no value. This is not the case. Acreage reports are used for nearly all FSA programs, including crop disaster assistance programs. In addition, acreage reports help to build consistent and on-going records with FSA for use in these programs. The following programs require acreage reports: **Direct and Counter Cyclical Payments (DCP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP), and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)**. Regardless of whether you are currently participating in one of these programs you are strongly encouraged to file a report for all planted acreage. The crop reporting deadlines for all crops (except burley tobacco) is June 30. The deadline for burley tobacco is July 15. If a crop has not been planted by the final report deadline, then the crop must be reported within 15 days of the planting date, in order to be considered timely filed.

Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP)

Producers who have NAP coverage for 2006 are reminded that if they have a loss, a Notice of Loss must be filed in the FSA office. The Notice of Loss must be provided:

- **Timely**—within 15 calendar days after the latter of the occurrence of prevented planting or the end of the planting period or disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer.
- **On proper form**—a notice of loss will only be accepted on form CCC-576. Telephone notification is not acceptable. The date the form is signed will be the date used to determine if timely filed.
- For **each disaster event**
- For **each crop and type** affected by the disaster event.



When you file a Notice of Loss, if you choose not to harvest the crop, **all eligible acres and crop units** for which you intend to make an application for payment must be left intact until the units have been appraised or released by a loss adjuster. Producers of hand harvested crops are reminded to notify FSA immediately after harvest is complete and before destruction of the crop so FSA can perform an appraisal of production left in the field.

Producers are reminded that NAP assistance requires accurate information. Failure to provide complete and accurate information and records could result in an application for NAP assistance being denied.

IMPORTANT: the next sales closing date for NAP is September 1, 2006. This applies to strawberries and all "value loss" crops, including nursery, aquaculture, Christmas trees, ginseng, turf grass sod, mushrooms, floriculture, and strawberry rootstock.

Load Deficiency Payments (LDP)

Load Deficiency Payments will be available this year for various commodities, including corn for grain or silage, wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts. If you have not already done so, you should file form CCC-633EZ as soon as possible. Filing this form will cover "beneficial interest" provisions for LDPs. When you complete harvesting or shearing, you should file for your LDP payment(s) at the FSA office.

Farm Records

FSA requests that you notify us whenever there is a change in your farm operation. Changes that should be reported include those of ownership, operation, mailing address, telephone, and direct deposit. Reporting such changes helps FSA to maintain accurate and current farm records.

Agricultural Loans

If you are interested in a farm purchase, farm operating, or "youth" loan, please contact the FSA office. FSA may have a loan program that will assist you.

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